

Claims

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- [c1] A system of incoming mail receptacles for detecting hazards in a mail piece comprising:
a plurality of incoming mail receptacles each including a hazard detector, a communications system, and a source detection system for providing suspect source information when a hazard is detected;
a server connected to the plurality of incoming mail receptacles for receiving suspect source data and communicating the suspect source data to the incoming mail receptacles.
- [c2] The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a secure network connection between each incoming mail receptacle and the server.
- [c3] The system of claim 1 further comprising: an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece
- [c4] A method for coordinated hazard detection in a mail system having a plurality of incoming mail receptacles with hazard detection systems connected to a central server comprising:
detecting the presence of a mail piece;
detecting the source of a mail piece;
testing the mail piece for hazards;
alerting the central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server.
- [c5] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a meter serial number.
- [c6] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a return address.
- [c7] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a handwriting sample.